

Appl. No. 10/766,337  
Amdt. Dated December 4, 2007  
Reply to Office action of September 20, 2007

### **REMARKS**

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed September 20, 2007. Claim 18 has been amended and claim 22 has been added. Reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks made herein is respectfully requested.

#### ***Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Claims 2-11 and 13-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asano (U.S. Published Application No. 2002/0169971) in view of a publication by Hugo Krawczyk entitled "New Hash Functions for Message Authentication." Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because Asano does not constitute prior art.

Herein, the Office Action uses Asano as prior art references under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicant respectfully submits that the effective filing date of the subject continuation application is November 22, 1999, namely the filing date of the patent application, namely U.S. Patent Application No. 09/447,635. It is noted that the earliest effective filing date of Asano could be through a filing of a Japanese application on January 21, 2000, which is a date subsequent to the effective filing date of the subject application.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this outstanding rejection of claims 2-11 and 13-19 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

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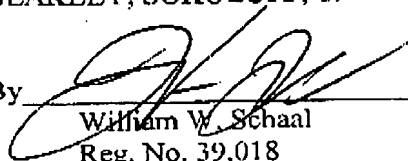
### Conclusion

Applicant reserves all rights with respect to the applicability of the doctrine of equivalents. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,  
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: December 4, 2007

By



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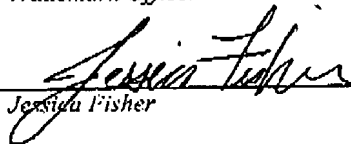
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